

Claims

1. Method for automatic detection of data types for data type dependent processing by a technical device,
5 characterized in
- a) receiving data (IN) of different data types,
 - b) analyzing said received data,
 - c) detecting (D1) the format of the received data,
 - d) using said detected format for evaluating (D3)
10 whether said data contain
 - at least one machine-interpretable link and associated data (M),
 - any other data (E), e.g. text, picture data, links, except data of said first type (M), or
 - 15 - a mixture of said machine-interpretable link and associated data (M) with said other data (E),
 - e) evaluating (D4) whether said technical device is able to interpret said data for reproducing a physical representation of said data, and
 - 20 f) supplying the result (M,E,C) of said first evaluation and the result (PD,AD) of said second evaluation to a device or process for data type dependent processing of said data (IN).
- 25 2. Method according to claim 1, wherein for data being interpretable (PD) by said technical device is also indicated whether the format type of said data is one of a number of specified format types (F1,...,F3).
- 30 3. Method according to any of claims 1-2, wherein for data being not interpretable (AD) by said technical device is also indicated if it is text.
- 35 4. Method according to any of claims 1-3, wherein said technical device is a data sorting device, a database management system or a data content browser.

5. Apparatus for automatic detection of data types for data type dependent processing characterized in that the method according to any of claims 1-4 are used.